



The Town of Fenwick Island

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

July 9, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Vickie Carmean, Colleen Wilson, Susan Brennan, Pam Pridgeon, Deborah Cowell (Zoom), Joel Patten (Zoom)

Other Participants: Jen Pawloski (Zoom), Kurt Zanelotti, Janice Bortner (Zoom), BK (Zoom), Justin (Zoom)

Staff Participants: Kathy Grab

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2025

Motion to approve the Minutes of June 11, 2025 Meeting on a Susan Brennan/Vicki Carmean motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

2. Offshore Wind Update.

- a. Jen Pawloski.

- Jen Pawloski shared that a judge is allowing the BOEM and Department of Interior case to proceed. She also noted a recent FOIA violation finding against the Center for the Inland Bays, with details to be posted soon.
- Deborah Cowell read an excerpt from the OC Dispatch about the wind farms.

3. Pollinator Park Happenings.

- a. Summer Soiree was another success.

- Colleen Wilson reported the Summer Soiree was a success with 50 attendees and highlighted the need for more community events.
- The Pollinator Park won 1st place from the Delaware State Garden Club.
- Colleen Wilson asked Susan Brennan to think about dates and tasks for continued garden work, noting many enjoy helping with weeding, watering, and deadheading. Susan Brennan agreed to review dates after the meeting to bring to the Barefoot Gardeners.
- Vicki Carmean is so very proud of the community and all the beautiful things our town is doing.

- Susan Brennan noted the composter bin, and the second water cistern have been installed, two positives for the garden.

4. Sidewalk Plantings/Maintenance.

- a. Vicki Carmean thanked those involved in cleaning up the plants.
- She noted some areas now look beautiful, especially the flowering hibiscus. Some plants didn't survive.
 - She raised the need to plan maintenance for easements once sidewalks are installed.
 - Susan Brennan asked what to do about the spaces left where the dead plants were removed. Vicki Carmean replied it was her understanding that Brother Nature may be able to do this in the fall.
 - Susan Brennan thought the committee could oversee it as a partner.

Motion to consider having a discussion on how to handle the current planted easement on a Susan Brennan/Vicki Carmean motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- Colleen Wilson and Susan Brennan agreed improved maintenance would enhance the town's appearance.

9:40 a.m. Deborah Cowell left.

Motion to bring to Council the request for the Environmental Committee help support the maintenance of what is currently there.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Faucett-Okie Family Nature Preserve.

- a. Megan Noe Fellows.
- Deborah Cowell reported the town has an opportunity to be included in a grant from the Center for the Inland Bays to install a pocket forest in the Okie Preserve. The grant includes trees, a bench, and training in October. A decision is needed by September. She proposed Colleen Wilson and Susan Brennan meet with Megan Noe Fellows to review details and consider bringing it to Council, noting the environmental and educational value.
 - Colleen Wilson would like to have a meeting set up with Megan Noe Fellows and would like to have the details. She expressed concern about invasive removal and requested details. Deborah Cowell clarified the goal is to control, not remove, bamboo.
 - Vicki asked about long-term commitments. Deborah Cowell said a 2-year maintenance plan and signage are the only requirements.
 - Committee is interested in the opportunity but needs to be cautious and need get educated and review the grant paperwork.
 - Susan Brennan asked about funding and Deborah Cowell confirmed it's from the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund.
 - The signs need to be installed, the map has been provided to the town for placement.

- Colleen Wilson asked about a time for the grand opening, Deborah Cowell replied that Mr. Okie would prefer to be in the fall. His sign needs to be made as well.

6. Bird Sanctuary.

a. Inland Bays.

- Vicki Carmean shared Inland Bays may waive their initial consultation fee.
- She also contacted Paige Cahill, who suggested involving an environmental landscape architect.
- The town has hired Straughan Environmental to assess bayside flooding. If Inland Bays can consult and offer recommendations, the committee can proceed from there.
- Colleen Wilson noted the benefit of working with a local group and requested Inland Bays be invited to the next meeting to discuss the Glenn Ave bird sanctuary.
- Funding can be discussed at a later time.

7. Old Business.

a. None.

8. New Business.

a. None

9. Public Participation.

a. Jen Pawloski regarding grant for Preserve.

- Jen Pawloski advised caution in accepting grants from the Center for the Inland Bays due to confirmed FOIA violations and financial ties to offshore wind developers.
- She offered to share related documents.
- Colleen Wilson welcomed the additional information. Jen Pawloski will send the documents to Susan Brennan.

10. Date of the next meeting.

a. August 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 9:56 a.m. on a Vicki Carmean/Susan Brennan motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.